



DASA

Drug and Alcohol Services Australia

April

2020

Outreach Newsletter





A Note from the CEO

Another year is well underway, and another newsletter is set to hit your desk.

This though is no ordinary year. It is one that has never been repeated, certainly not in my lifetime. We have a pandemic, the likes of which we have never seen before and hopefully will never see again. This is important for a number of reasons. One of course is the horrendous loss of life across the globe and the sheer number of people sick in our hospitals. Australia has done pretty well considering but we still have had over 6,000 cases and climbing. The Northern Territory has, by all comparisons, done exceptionally well with no new cases in 12 days and no community infections at all.

We cannot take this for granted of course, because if this virus should get into our local communities, the death toll would be alarming.

I am aware that everyone understands all of this and are probably sick of the constant virus news, but it is important to us as we have had to change the way we do business as a result of Covid-19 and our workload has increased as a result.

DASA is deemed an essential service and as such is still dealing with people in a variety of ways. Outreach has had to alter its methodology and counsel people over the phone and in distance situations. A number of our clients have lost access to many of the services that support them and help us to provide wrap around services to people and we are being asked to pick up more and more of what is left behind. Also, people who suffer from alcohol and drug addictions already face periods of isolation and disconnectedness and are feeling even more isolated than ever. They too are reaching out to us and seeking to connect more often so as to relieve their feelings of being alone with their problems.

This is something our people are trained to deal with but with an already overstretched client base, they are feeling the pinch. However, we do what we do to help people and the staff never complain.

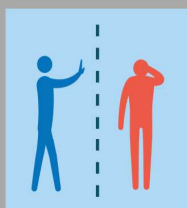
I am very proud of the staff of all programs at this difficult time, but none more so than outreach.

Well done guys. Stay safe and stay focused.

Carole Taylor



COVID-19

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

DASA along with other AOD services has been declared an “Essential Service”. DASA held a meeting last month to discuss how DASA will provide each of its services to ensure we are meeting our organizational goals and values and ensuring we are keeping our staff and clientele safe.

Head Office

For the interim, Head Office will work as we have done whilst maintaining proper hygiene and social distancing. Each week DASA monitors the pandemic are keeping up to date with National rules and regulations that are in place. We currently have some staff working from home who have a compromised immune system.

Outreach Teams

Outreach teams will now work differently as we must maintain social distancing and can not have clients in our vehicles or go into people's places of residence. This is going to be difficult for our clientele during this challenging times. A majority of Outreach contacts will be conducted over the phone, Facebook, skype etc..

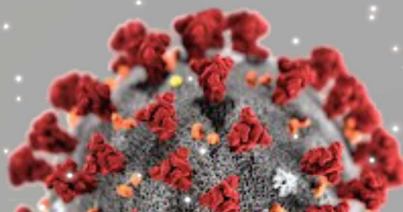
Programs delivered in prison have ceased until further notice and will resume when safe. Outreach have cancelled all BBQ's until further notices as we can not encourage large groups together. The Back On Track Drink Drug Drive Program will be delivered differently, Jocelyn has put together kits for people who need to undertake the course. For more information, please contact Head Office on 8950 5000.

Sobering UP Shelter

The Shelter has seen an influx of people present to their service. A majority of people attending have been self referrals. The Shelter still operates Monday through to Saturday and is closed on Sunday.

Aranda House

The residential program has had to reduce their number down to 60% to ensure we are keeping up with the National guidelines around Covid-19.



DASA
Drug and Alcohol Services Australia



COVID-19



Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit



In February 2020, Jocelyn Dhu and Jordan Lockerbie attended the National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit held in Cairns. The Summit was a collaboration of knowledge sharing and discussions on the topics of child protection, social and emotional wellbeing and youth justice, with the aim to improve services and outcomes for Indigenous children and families.

The four day event brought together industry innovators, leaders and front-line workers to collaborate on strategies towards empowering Indigenous young people, the leaders of tomorrow.

“I really enjoyed the Summit, it was an inspiring and insightful opportunity to hear from various organisations working at keeping children safe and reconnecting them with their families and communities in a culturally appropriate way”. Jocelyn said.

“The Youth Empowerment Summit was a great experience. It was incredible to see people from across the nation come together to brainstorm and put together ideas of how to keep improving the situations that young indigenous Australian’s are faced with. From the youth justice system, Domestic and Family violence, education, AOD issues, and right through to economically struggling communities. I believe overall it was a good opportunity for everybody to reflect on where we were, where we are now, and what we need to keep doing to help our youth. After all they are our future!! Would definitely attend it again”, Jordan said.

